

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03888 161846Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 MCT-01
DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01
SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 /081 W
-----161930Z 023378 /40

O 161700Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1410
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3888

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PO
SUBJ: TROUBLE IN THE AZORES

SUMMARY: SEPARATIST-INSPIRED VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN THE
AZORES MAY 13 AND MAY 16. PRESIDENT EANES IS VERY CONCERNED
AND IS PREPARED TO SEND IN POLICE SHOCK TROOPS FROM
THE MAINLAND IF REQUESTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 03888 161846Z

1. SHOWING THE FLAG: SEPARATIST SYMPATHIZERS TOOK
ADVANTAGE OF RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES (FESTA DO SENHOR
SANTO CRISTO) IN PONTA DELGADA TO PROVOKE A NEW
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS.
DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 13 SEPARATIST SYMPATHIZERS
REPLACED THE PORTUGUESE FLAG FLYING IN THE MAIN SQUARE
WITH THE BLUE AND WHITE STANDARD POPULARLY ASSOCIATED

WITH THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT. THE PONTA DELGADA AUTHORITIES RESPONDED TIMIDLY. FACED WITH LACK OF ACTION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AN AZOREAN-BASED PORTUGUESE MILITARY CONTINGENT WAS CALLED IN BY LISBON WITH ORDERS TO HAUL DOWN THE AZOREAN FLAG. SEVERAL INJURIES WERE REPORTED IN ENSUING INCIDENTS. IN THE EARLY MORNING OF MAY 16, SEPARATISTS IN PONTA DELGADA ATTEMPTED TO SEIZE A POLICE STATION. SEVEEN WERE INJURED IN THE RESULTING CLASH.

2. PRESIDENT RESPONDS: THE PRESIDENCY RESPONDED TO THE MAY 13 INCIDENT WITH A STRONG STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE EVENTS AS "INTOLERABLE" AND CRITICIZING THE "INACTION OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT." PRESIDENT EANES CALLED IN PSD PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO ON MAY 15 AND 16 FOR STRAIGHT-FROM-THE-SHOULDER DISCUSSIONS OF THE SITUATION. ON MAY 16, THE PRESIDENCY WAS CONSIDERING SENDING IN THE POLICE INTERVENTION FORCES FROM THE MAINLAND TO RESTORE ORDER, BUT ONLY IF THE AZOREAN AUTHORITIES REQUESTED THEM.

3. SA CARNEIRO REACTS: FOLLOWING THE MEETING AN OBVIOUSLY NERVOUS SA CARNEIRO RESPONDED TO THE PRESS BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE SITUATION IN THE AZORES WAS COMPLETELY CALM.
 - A DISAGREEABLE INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE OVER DRAMATIZED.
 - THE PSD WOULD DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM SERVING AS A PRETEXT FOR DESTABILIZATION.
 - THE SITUATION WAS EVEN MORE DELICATE BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO
- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 03888 161846Z

NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT ON LAJES (SIC) AND A U.S. LOAN (SIC), EVEN THOUGH THE LEGISLATURE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD ON THESE SUBJECTS.

4. OTHER REACTIONS: THE SOCIALIST PARTY BOTH IN THE AZORES AND ON THE MAINLAND ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE ACTION OF THE SEPARATISTS AND CALLING ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS THE "USUAL AMBIGUITIES" OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN FAILING TO RESPOND WITH FIRMNESS. THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ISSUED A NOTE STATING THAT THE PONTA DELGADA MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES HAD NOT INTENDED TO OFFEND IN ANY WAY NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY BY ALLOWING THE HOISTING OF THE AZOREAN BANNER BUT RATHER TO AFFIRM THEIR TIES TO REGIONAL AUTONOMY.

5. COMMENT: TENSIONS CONTINUE TO RUN HIGH. THE SEPARATISTS HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE IN PONTA DELGADA OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS, INCLUDING SOME LUSO-AMERICANS SYMPATHETIC TO THE SEPARATIST CAUSE

TO TEST THE RESOLVE OF LISBON AUTHORITIES.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS, AZORES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON03888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770173-0623
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770553/aaaabtzi.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01224693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2507471
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLE IN THE AZORES SUMMARY: SEPARATIST-INSPIRED VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN THE AZORES MAY 13 AND MAY 16.
PRESIDENT EANES IS VERY
TAGS: PINS, PO, (EANES, ANTONIO DOS SANTOS RAMALHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01224693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009